

VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE
REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES
Monday, July 20th, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

Council met in Council Chambers - Governor DeWine's "Responsible Restart Ohio" guidelines were in effect. Everyone was asked to wear face coverings or sit where social distancing could be observed.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Ron Jones. Pastor Steve Evers introduced Pastor Randy Calico from Berea Kentucky. He is in Hicksville with several teens on a mission trip. Pastor Calico gave the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

Roll Call was read with the following persons in attendance: Mayor Ron Jones; Council Members Larry Ridgway, Taylor Klepper, Mike Barth, Eric Bassett, Ron Beverly, and Cory Wann; Administrator Kent Miller; and Fiscal Officer Cheryl Smith. Solicitor Troy Essex was absent.

Minutes from the July 6th Regular Council Meeting were presented. Eric Bassett made a motion to approve, seconded by Taylor Klepper. Wann, Ridgway, Barth, Bassett, Beverly and Klepper voted yes.

The list of bills to be paid was presented. Ron Beverly made a motion to approve the bills, seconded by Eric Bassett. Wann, Ridgway, Bassett, Beverly and Klepper voted yes. Barth abstained.

Boards & Commissions:

The Nuisance Board met July 7th and minutes were in the packets. There were no new nuisance properties added. There are currently 19 open cases. The Police Department is still working on junk vehicle cases.

The Park Board met July 15th and minutes were in the packets. The Board wants Mike Bailey to take pictures of the playground equipment near the softball diamond so it can be sold online. The Board also wants the swing set and slide removed because it is old, as well as taking down the fence. Council reminded them they had to get written permission from the Defiance County Metropolitan Park Board before they do anything as it on their land. Val Shull said she would do that. Residents have voiced concerns that we are tearing down a playground and not replacing it. The playgrounds are busy every day. The park needs more than just ballfields.

Council Committees:

The Water/Sewer Committee met July 8th and requested Council vote to approve changes to the Collection Policy. They want the shut off notice fee to go from \$10.00 to \$50.00. If the water is shut off and then reconnected, the fee will be \$100.00. Mike Barth made a motion to approve the recommendation, seconded by Ron Beverly. All voted yes.

NOTE: All committee meeting minutes are available in their entirety in the Fiscal Officer's office at 111 South Main Street, Hicksville or by email request to hixcs@defnet.com.

Administrator's Report: (report follows)

- The north water tower went back on-line July 16.
- The 100-200 E. Smith paving/curb job is scheduled to start in mid-August and should be done by mid-September.
- You have legislation concerning the W. High/Chicago sewer and W. High water jobs. If passed, the contract books will be sent to all involved for signatures and a pre-construction meeting arranged. There is good news on the water portion as OPWC sent the grant agreement which will pay 48% of the costs, up to a maximum of \$130,000.
- Just a reminder the new water tower is scheduled for construction in 2022. Because the south tower will then come down, the utilities and emergency services antennae relocation needs addressed. It will take time to get things worked out, so talks should begin with the Sheriff's Office (911), our PD and FD, Metalink and Mediacom. What committee would be involved? It could be three different ones depending on what council considers it to fall under (water-sewer, street/property or PD/FD); I don't care which, I only need to know who to get with for supplying dates and times to send out to all involved and find a date which works for everyone.
- We have three active BWC claims although two of them are winding down. The third, however, will continue indefinitely as the employee involved will be having surgery. We also have one active liability insurance claim.
- From Jessi regarding the backflow survey required by OEPA:
- The Ohio EPA is now requiring us to "survey" each service connection to our water system to check for cross-connections. This could be from irrigation systems, pools/hot tubs connected directly to their plumbing, auxiliary water systems (wells, cisterns, etc), booster pumps, or any other means of potential back pressure from the private plumbing into the public water system. This survey can be as simple as individual customers telling us what potential sources of back pressure are on their premises or as involved as Village personnel physically inspecting all the private plumbing in town. We'd obviously prefer for residents to fill out the survey form, so we don't have to go into their homes and visually inspect the plumbing. The EPA does require us to visually inspect commercial and industrial sites, since they are the most likely to have cross-connections and/or back pressure, if any. It is still helpful for the

commercial/industrial customers to go to our website, fill out the survey form that pertains to their business, and return it to us prior to their inspection appointment, so we can expedite the process and take up as little of their time as necessary.

- The most current comparison I can make for the backflow prevention survey is to the wearing of masks in 2020. The protection for the individual wearing the mask is minor compared to the protection and reassurance for the public. If a resident has a back-pressure situation, they are already dealing with the effects of the potential danger. The goal here is to protect the entire water system and Hicksville consumer population as a whole, because backflow from one resident can affect the entire drinking water system. The majority of our customers will only need to fill in their name and address and check one box, then return it to us. It's that simple and takes only a minute. The forms can be returned with their utility bills or dropped in the 24-hour drop-box outside the Municipal Building. (They don't even have to get out of their vehicles!)
- Again, this is not something we enacted. It is being required of us. The simplest way to meet this mandate is for the public to fill out the survey and return it. Any resident NOT returning a survey will then need to have their internal plumbing inspected by Village personnel. It is not our goal to infringe upon their private dwellings, but we will be required to if the survey forms are not returned.

Miller wanted everyone to be aware that in 2022 the new water tower will be under construction and then the small water tower beside the library will be removed. Currently it has numerous antennas attached, including our 9-1-1 system. The companies in charge need to be aware of the approaching deadline and prepare to remove and place their antennas elsewhere. It will not be a easy or fast process, so they should begin soon. The Council could elect to put up a tower and lease space on it. This would be a costly project so needs to be considered carefully.

The CSX agreement for boring through the elevated tracks between the water plant and the new wellfield came in today. The engineers report has been approved as written. The initial cost is about \$7 to 8,000.00. The cost will increase once construction begins.

Solicitor's Report: Ordinance 2020-06 and 2020-07 continue to be tabled until the language is changed.

First reading of **Resolution 2020-17** by caption only authorizing a contract with Hohenbrink Excavating LLC for the West High Street Water-Line Replacement Project and declaring an emergency. Ron Beverly made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Mike Barth. All voted yes. Second and final reading of Resolution 2020-17 by caption only. Larry Ridgway made a motion to approve, seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes.

First reading of **Resolution 2020-18** by caption only authorizing a contract with Hohenbrink Excavating LLC for the West High Street Storm Sewer/Chicago Ave Drainage Project and declaring an emergency. Mike Barth made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Larry Ridgway. All voted yes. Second and final reading of Resolution 2020-18 by caption only. Larry Ridgway made a motion to approve, seconded by Ron Beverly. All voted yes.

Department Heads:

Police Chief: Mark Denning was absent. Sergeant Doctor had no report.

Fire/EMS Chief: Scott Cramer was absent. The Mayor reported the new ambulance is in service.

Park Director: Val Shull reported there has been a lot of trash near Adventure Alley and the Port-a-Johns have been repeatedly vandalized. The Mayor asked the Police Department to increase patrols, especially in the evenings. Ron Beverly asked about the cameras installed. He was told they are usually too grainy to identify individuals. He said they should be upgraded if necessary so vandals can be apprehended.

Fiscal Officer Report: The following reports were submitted:

- Fund Status
- 2nd Quarter Report from Deferred Comp
- Letter from Mediacom - they have deleted the ESPN Goal Line Channel from the lineup
- Smith also reported the following;
- Pool revenue so far is \$5941.00 / expenses have been \$8391.02
- Water was able to be shut off for non-payment beginning July 10th. The list had 60 residences being tagged. There were 2 actual shut offs and 1 account referred to the Water/Sewer Committee for dispensation.
- Income Tax in 2019 expected 2043 filers / on April 16th there were 1524 completed and 709 non-filers. This year the date was extended to July 15th. We expected 2135 filers. On July 16th there were 1525 completed and 610 non-filers. Smith reminded Council no collection activity can be started until after October 15th. That is the deadline for extensions. We have no way of knowing if someone has an extension unless they tell us, and they are only required to file with the Federal government.

Mayor's Report:

The Mayor reported he has conference calls weekly with the Defiance County Health Department. He also serves on a Task Force dealing with COVID-19. Our county moved from yellow to orange. There were 4 cases last week and 12 this week for a total of 76. The National Guard will be coming to help test employees of nursing homes. The mayor reminded residents their best defense is to wear their mask when they have to go out.

Larry Ridgway announced the Police & Fire Committee will meet Wednesday July 22nd at 5:15 pm in council chambers.

Eric Bassett asked Kent Miller if he was still thinking of retiring this fall. The mayor reminded everyone when (and if) Kent Miller decides to retire he will ask for applicants to send in resumes. He will interview candidates, narrow it to 2 or 3, then ask the Personnel Committee to meet for final interviews. However, it seems we will have Mr. Miller for a while yet.

Larry Ridgway made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes. Meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Mayor

Fiscal Officer